



# NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK

AUGUST 7-13, 2016

## A PROCLAMATION

by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

**WHEREAS** farmers markets are important outlets for agricultural producers nationwide, providing them with increased opportunities to meet consumer demand for a variety of fresh, affordable, healthful, and locally sourced products; and

**WHEREAS** farmers markets play a key role in developing local and regional food systems that support the sustainability of family farms, revitalize rural communities, and provide opportunities for farmers and consumers to interact; and

**WHEREAS** farmers markets offer low-income women, infants, children, and seniors participating in the WIC and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs, respectively, the opportunity to redeem their benefits and also increasingly offer electronic benefits transfer technology for use by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients in redeeming their benefits; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes the myriad benefits of farmers markets for producers and consumers and is fully committed to supporting farmers markets' continued success through grants, technical assistance, directories, and more;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, to further awareness of farmers markets' contributions to American life, I, Thomas J. Vilsack; Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim the week of August 7-13, 2016, as National Farmers Market Week. I call upon the American people to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observances and activities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of June 2016, the two-hundred fortieth year of the Independence of the United States of America.